

SUMMING UP THE CONFERENCE WORK

One of the Most Pleasant and Profitable Seasons Ever Held.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

The New Statistics Show Gratifying Advances in All Departments.

(Special From Our Staff Correspondent.)

DANVILLE, VA., November 15.—The one hundred and twenty-third session of the Virginia Annual Conference, Methodist Episcopal Church, South, completed its work by 11 o'clock last night and its proceedings are now a matter of history. This morning the Main Street Methodist Church, the seat of the Conference, which has for the past eight days been the crowded scene of as much busy business as a bee hive looks like, is a desolate and forlorn as a country station on a narrow gauge railway after the last train for the day has passed.

All the preachers agree that this has been one of the most pleasant and profitable seasons the Conference has ever held. Bishop Galloway, undoubtedly one of the ablest members of the college of bishops, by his affable manner and his dignified good humor, together with his business-like way of dispatching business, early won his way to the hearts of the members of the Conference and all of the congregations which attended the sessions.

The year's work by the Conference is always summed up and put to record in replies to a series of "minute questions" which are asked at the last session of the body. These answers give in concrete form the year's work and the condition of the church. They are very interesting to the reading public and especially Methodist readers.

The answers furnish the following statistics:

Number of local preachers this year, 91, a decrease of two, that number having at this session entered the itinerant service. Number of members of the churches, 93,153, increase over last year, 2,283. Number of infants baptized during the year, 1,119, decrease, 105. Number of adults baptized, 3,029, increase over previous year, 268. Number of Epworth Leagues, 121, decrease, 4. Number of Epworth League members, 5,576, decrease, 185. Number of Sunday schools, 87, increase, 4. Number of Sunday school teachers, 6,694, increase, 15. Number of scholars, 67,221, increase, 1,082.

Amount necessary for superannuated preachers and the widows and orphans of preachers, \$17,079, same as last year. Collections on foregoing fund, \$14,116.47, increase over last year, \$56.47.

Amount contributed for missions: Foreign, \$24,652.91, decrease \$1,472.91; domestic, \$12,874, increase, \$12,491. From the Board of Christian Education, \$5,822.54, increase, \$50.95. Contributed for church extension, \$6,199.50, increase, \$70.24. Paid the American Bible Society, \$1,055.61, decrease, \$8.90.

Amount contributed to pay presiding elders, \$15,563.12, increase, \$98.42. To pay preachers in charge, \$207,903.75, increase, \$5,063.31; contributed for support of bishops, \$2,124.50, increase, \$90.88.

Number of houses of worship, 767, decrease 5; value of houses of worship, \$2,218,912, increase, \$29,171; indebtedness on churches, \$125,374, decrease, \$5,812.

Number of pastoral charges, 231, increase 2. Number of parsonages, 173, increase 2. Value of parsonages, \$375,699, increase \$5,609; indebtedness on parsonages, \$25,292, decrease, \$2,129.

Number of districts, 11; district parsonages, 3; value of district parsonages, \$9,570, no indebtedness; insurance carried on churches, \$1,223,157; on parsonages, \$129,675. Churches damaged by fire during the year, 6; amount of damage, \$67, F. S. W.

FIVE-YEAR SENTENCE.

Indictment Against Eyer for Train Wrecking Quashed.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) CHESTERFIELD, VA., November 15.—James Jones, colored, indicted for house-breaking, was tried in the Circuit Court yesterday and sent to the penitentiary for five years.

The trial of young Walter Eyer for train wrecking was to have been tried also, and many witnesses came to court through the snow storm. A motion to quash the indictment in the case, however, was sustained, which ended the case for the present. New proceedings will be instituted, beginning with a warrant before a justice of the peace.

Young Eyer was arrested by a Baldwin detective, Mr. Copenhagen, of Roanoke, who worked up the evidence against him.

Mr. E. H. Wells, of Manchester, who

has been sick for some days, is expected out on Thursday to act as counsel in a suit of Reams vs. Robertson.

After Norfolk and Western.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) ROANOKE, VA., November 15.—W. W. Atteberry, general manager, and J. B. Thayer, one of the vice-presidents of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, arrived here today from the West with President L. E. Johnson of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Their visit following so soon after the visit of President Cassatt makes the story that the Pennsylvania is to secure complete control of the Norfolk and Western look probable.

Official Vote of Henry.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) MARTINSVILLE, VA., November 15.—The official count of the vote of Henry county was completed today. Swanson's majority in the county is 409. Garrett's majority over Reynolds (Republican) for State Senate, is 267; Barker (Democrat), for House of Delegates, is elected over Turner (Republican) by 196 majority. Jno. H. Matthews, present incumbent, was re-elected clerk by 485 majority.

Fire in Farmville.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) FARMVILLE, VA., November 15.—Fire to-night destroyed a stable on the premises of R. C. Bristow, of Farmville. A horse and buggy and a quantity of feed were consumed in the blaze.

Mr. Bristow cannot account for the origin of the fire.

Convicted of Murder.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) WYTHEVILLE, VA., November 15.—George Toton was convicted of murder in the first degree this evening for the killing of Arthur Hall, at Max Meadows, last week. Both parties were negroes. A motion for new trial will be argued on Friday.

Either Murder or Suicide.

ROANOKE, VA., November 15.—The Roanoke jury, investigating the death of J. H. Muse, the barkeeper who disappeared two weeks ago and was found in Roanoke River yesterday, brought in a verdict to-day that his death was either accidental or suicide.

Miss Blanche Riffe.

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.) ROANOKE, VA., November 15.—Miss Blanche Riffe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Riffe, died at the hospital to-day, aged 24 years. She was operated on for appendicitis yesterday.

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Delicious strengthening beef tea and other toothsome and nourishing dishes for invalids and convalescents may be quickly prepared with Armour's Extract of Beef.

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